



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



2014 Drought Response Report

State Operations Center

Situation Brief – March 17, 2014



Situational Summary

Information as of 3/17/14

On January 17, 2014 Governor Edmund G. Brown proclaimed a State of Emergency and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for drought conditions. The State Operation Center (SOC) is activated to implement objectives in support of the Governor's priorities. The lack of winter rain and snowfall has resulted in extremely dry conditions in many parts of the State. Reservoir levels are down significantly from where they should be on average for this time of year. If conditions continue without substantial rainfall, severe impacts to municipal water supplies, agriculture (plants and livestock) and firefighting capabilities are likely in store for the State over the next few months. Negative economic impacts will also result.

Dry conditions are expected statewide through mid-week, with record high temperatures in some place. A weak pressure front will move in by the middle of the week with cooling temperatures, but little to no precipitation is expected.

Despite above average rain and snow in February and early March, much of California has received only about 50% of normal precipitation. Heavy rain and snow would have to fall throughout California very frequently from now until May to reach average annual rain and snowfall levels. Even with such precipitation, California would remain in drought conditions, due to low water supplies in reservoirs from the two previous dry years. The drought could result in severe impacts to the municipal water supplies, wells, agriculture (plants and livestock) and firefighting capabilities for several months. The SOC continues to be activated to monitor the situation statewide, and support regional and local operational areas.

Situational Summary (cont'd)

Information as of 3/17/14

- The Drought Task Force is scheduled to meet on March 28, 2014 in Shasta County. The Taskforce continues to meet regularly to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought.
- The State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) staff participated in the Small Systems Inter-Agency Outreach Committee meeting USDA Rural Development, California Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network and Rural Community Assistance Corporation on March 5, 2014.
- The recent snowpack survey conducted on 3/12/14, recorded California snowpack at 29% of normal. The statewide snowpack as of March 6 indicates a snow water content of 33 percent of average to date and 30 percent of the April 1 average.
- DWR has announced that water essential for health and safety will be delivered through the state water project in spite of the zero allocation policy. Deliveries will be boosted if storms produce enough rain and snow to increase reservoir storage and the snow pack.
- On March 27, 2014, SWRCB will be at the groundbreaking ceremony for the City of Visalia's \$147 million Water Conservation Plant upgrade and recycled water distribution pipeline, made possible by an earlier CWA SRF loan from the State Water Board.
- Cal OES continues to gather drought-related costs from state agencies and local governments.

Drought Impacts

1. Drinking Water (Information as of 3/11/14)

- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is developing questions that will be included in the upcoming Annual Report (AER) to gather data on water conservation and drought preparedness. The data collection will begin 3/10/2014, with a deadline to complete of 4/18/2014.
- CDPH Drinking Water District Engineers and regional/local Cal OES personnel provided nine of the ten site visits to public water systems identified as having acute drinking water supply issues. The last visit is scheduled for 3/14/2014.
- CDPH establish and continually updates the CDPH Drinking Water website, as needed at: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/DroughtPreparedness.aspx>.
- CDPH activated an Information Line to answer concerns or questions about public drinking water systems. Contact (855) 737-1796, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, effective Monday, February 24, 2014.

2. Fires (Information as of 3/10/14)

- Fire risk, which has been high, will be lower as a result of the two storm systems which passed through the state on 2/26/14, and 2/28/14. CALFIRE reports that this current fire activity is well above the year-to-date average of 200 fires, burning 626 acres.

Drought Impacts (continued)

3. Economic Impacts (Information as of 3/12/14)

- Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack declared two more California counties, Riverside and San Diego official disaster areas, bringing the total number of counties in this category to 56 of the 58 counties. Farmers in these counties are eligible for low interest emergency loans and other disaster assistance programs. The remaining two counties (Imperial and San Francisco) are covered as "contiguous" areas – as such, all counties in California are eligible for assistance.
- By law, SBA makes Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack declared this disaster on February 26, 2014.
- No information is available yet regarding impact on labor due to drought. Employment Development Department (EDD) will be sending weekly updates.

4. Agricultural Impacts (Information as of 3/12/14)

- On Monday, March 17, 2014, California Department of Food and Agriculture will hold an additional drought information session, per the request of Congressman Jared Huffman and Assembly Member Wes Chesbro in Sonoma county (Cloverdale) from 4:30pm-7:00pm at the Cloverdale Citrus Fair Auditorium. CDFA along with USDA and a number of state, local and independent agencies will host a drought open-house event where agency representatives will hand out information and answer questions regarding drought assistance resources.

5. Community Impacts (Information as of 3/12/14)

- Farmworker groups participated in a drought meeting of the State Board of Food and Agriculture on 3/4/14 at the University of California-Merced.

Federal Resources/Actions

Information as of 3/17/14

- U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell travelled to California last week and visited the Jones Pumping Station in Tracy, one of the key components of the Federal Water Project. Secretary Jewell held an in-depth meeting with water contractors who are supplied by federal water reservoirs and toured the Jones Pumping Station. She reiterated the federal government's commitment to supporting California's drought response during her visit.
- **President signs the Drought Information Act:** Congress passed and the President signed a federal bill to reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act (NIDIS). This act enables a federal early warning system for droughts by providing information, forecasts and assessments to vulnerable states. NIDIS was championed by the Western Governors Association, based on the drought vulnerability of western states.
- Water managers from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation have announced initial 2014 water allocations to those who receive water from the federal Central Valley Water Project. These allocations include 0% projected allocation to agriculture users south of the Delta, similar to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) allocation in late January, which reflect historic lows in available water. The Bureau will update these allocations in the coming months based on changes in precipitation and drought conditions.
- The Bureau of Reclamation also highlighted longer term actions that will increase the reliability and sustainability of the federal water system in California. These federal actions align with California state government's recently released Water Action Plan.
- The National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) announced it will apply remote sensing technology to detail impacts of the drought, such as fallowed fields and reduced groundwater supplies. NASA is providing this information to the state's DWR to help manage water resources.

State Resources

Information as of 3/10/14

Governor Brown signed emergency legislation that provides funding for shovel-ready water projects and emergency assistance to communities hurt by the drought. The proposal also streamlines state rules to enable more water recycling, strong enforcement of water rights and housing assistance to migrant workers. Funding in the bill includes:

- \$549 million for infrastructure grants to increase storm water capture and use of recycled water, improve management of groundwater storage, and strengthen water conservation.
- \$40 million from the proceeds of the state's cap-and-trade program to help local water agencies improve their water and energy efficiency, help farmers upgrade irrigation and water pumping systems to reduce water and energy use, and to enable retrofits in commercial and residential buildings that improve water and energy efficiency.
- \$25 million for emergency food assistance in areas hard-hit by the drought.
- \$21 million for housing-related assistance to drought victims.
- \$15 million to help communities that face drinking water shortages access alternative water supplies.
- \$14 million to improve groundwater management across the state, including help to disadvantaged communities with groundwater contamination exacerbated by the drought.

State Resources

Information as of 3/17/14

- Real-time water management leads to post-storm water supply: State and federal water management agencies continue to work together to allow exports of additional water from the Delta based on storms in the last six weeks. Recent precipitation has provided a window of opportunity to capture additional water for storage both north and south of the Delta, so state and federal water projects have increased pumping for a limited time to capture as much water as possible under current regulatory standards.
- State streamlines approvals for domestic water tanks: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the State Water Resources Board announced that they will expedite approval of storage tanks built by rural residents for domestic water use. These storage tanks help protect drinking water supplies and increase fire safety by giving rural residents a water supply that they can manage on their own property.
- Plan released to help fish survival and commercial fishing: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service last week released a contingency plan for the release of small fish raised in federal and state hatcheries. Due to the drought, new measures will be taken to release the hatchlings in portions of the Delta that allow for their migration to the ocean while enabling their eventual return to lay eggs and continue their life cycle.
- State launches online center for drought information: The Governor's Office and state agencies have launched drought.ca.gov, which will provide a central, one-stop location for drought information. Agencies will continue their own drought webpages, and drought.ca.gov will include a listing of these webpages.

State Resources

Information as of 3/17/14

- Local government toolkit now available: The Governor's Office of Planning and Research has posted online its drought toolkit for local governments, which outline actions that communities can take to respond to the drought. Debbie Davis, Local Drought Liaison, is leading this effort (drought.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov, 1-916-327-0068).
- Tribal consultation: This week on March 21, the Governor's Tribal Advisor will hold a Statewide Consultation Call with Tribal leaders to continue discussions on drought response with Drought Task Force officials.
- Government Facilities Training: The Department of General Services held a water conservation training last week for facility managers from state and local governments, as well as school districts across the state, to provide information and support to their water use reduction efforts. Over 300 managers from across the state participated.
- Cost Data: Cal OES continues to gather drought-related costs from state agencies and local governments, which is reported weekly to the Drought Taskforce.
- Governor's Drought Task Force: The Taskforce continues to meet weekly to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought.

State Advance/Strategic Planning

Information as of 2/18/14

State actions looking forward for 30, 60,120 days ahead will focus on:

- State and federal funding and legislative actions.
- Agricultural support, including USDA programs and other assistance to farmers.
- Actions to address water system operations and water supply, including curtailments, transfers, delta emergency actions.
- Actions to assess and assist with emergency needs related to drinking water.
- Assessment of hydropower generation, and any direct or indirect impacts to the electricity supply.
- Actions to address long-term habitat preservation.
- Community support needs and delivery of needed services such as food, rental/housing assistance, utilities assistance and support to non-profit organizations.
- Public health and safety issues such as increased fire threat, security threats, and activation of contingency plans.

Current Missions

Information as of 3/13/14

Open Missions:

1. 2014-Inland-2185 Tuolumne County does not have a water master or any alternative resources to assist in determining the health of their ground water system. Tuolumne County has requested state agency expertise to assist with this determination. DWR has taken the lead and is coordinating with CDPH and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to gather recent groundwater level and water quality information that can be used to populate a GIS map. DWR has produced a one page information paper outlining this information and expertise the State can offer. This information paper has been forwarded to Inland Region and they have submitted it to the County. Update: DWR is still gathering data and anticipates fulfilling this mission by the end of March, 2014.

CDPH Drinking Water Critical Systems

Information as of 3/5/14

System Name	County	District/LPA	Location
Camp Condor	Kern	Tehachapi	Taft, CA
Lake of the Woods MWC	Kern	Tehachapi	Frazier Park, CA
Whispering Pines Apts	Mariposa	Merced	Mid-Pines, CA
City of Willits	Mendocino	Mendocino	Willits, CA
Redwood Valley CWD	Mendocino	Mendocino	Redwood Valley, CA
Ophir Gardens	Placer	LPA	Auburn, CA

Notes:

LPA = Local Primary Agency Usually a County Environments Health Department

CWS = Community Water System

CWD = County Water System

CSD = Community Service District

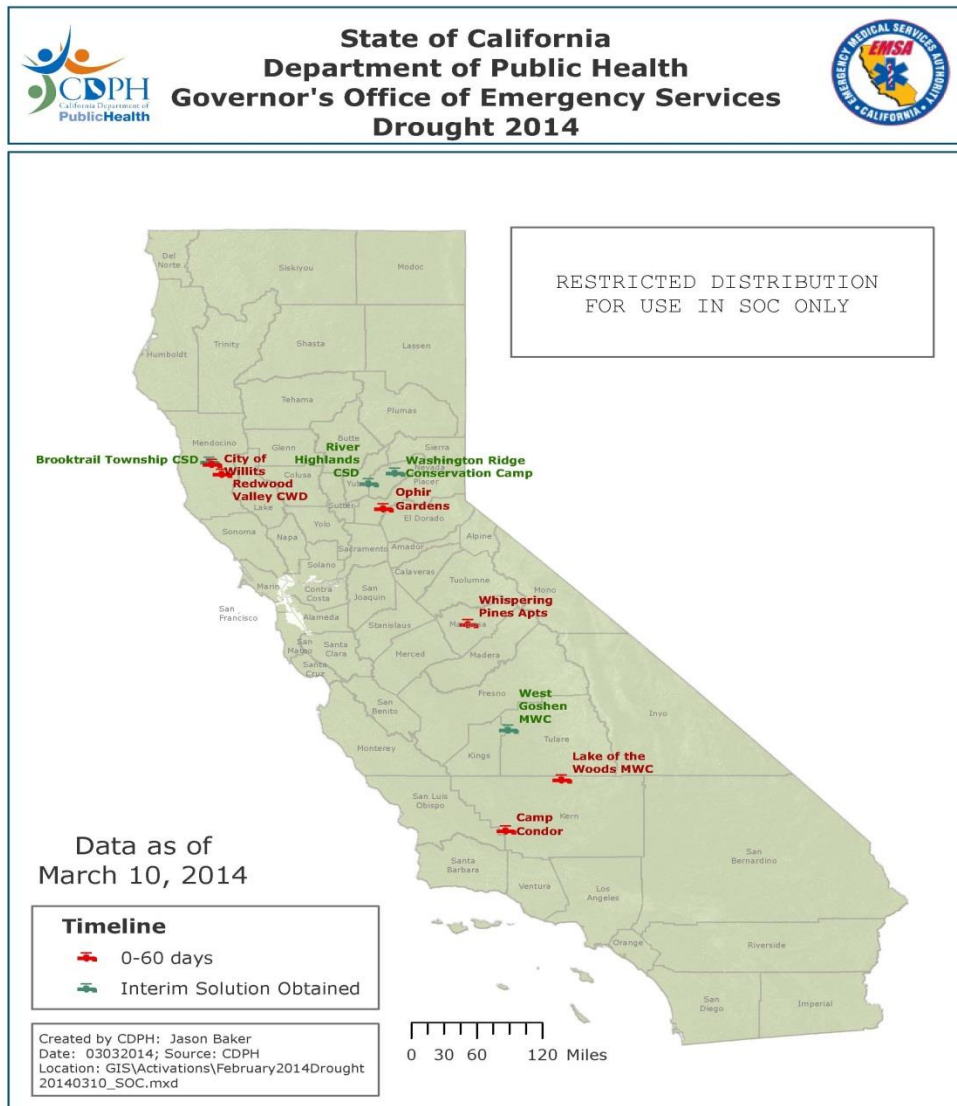
MWC = Mutual Water Company



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CDPH Drinking Water Critical Systems

Information as of 3/10/14



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CDFA Information Sessions on Drought Resources

Information as of 3/11/14

California Department of Food and Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be holding informational sessions on drought resources for farmers, ranchers and farmworkers in several locations throughout the state

Tentative Date	Time	Venue	Address	City
3/17/2014	4:30pm-7pm	Sonoma County	Cloverdale Citrus Fair Auditorium	Cloverdale

County Drought Task Force Meetings

Information as of 3/14/14

County Drought Task Force Upcoming Meetings		
Inland Region		
County	Previous Meetings	Upcoming Meetings
Butte	2/18/2014	5/19/2014
Kern	3/13/2014	4/10/2014
Madera	3/11/2014	4/29/2014
Merced		3/19/2014
Modoc	2/12/2014	
Nevada	2/28/2014	
Placer	3/12/2014	
Plumas	2/24/2014	3/17/2014
Sacramento	2/21/2014	3/21/2014
San Joaquin	2/19/2014	3/19/2014
Siskiyou	3/12/2014	
Stanislaus	3/3/2014	3/19/2014
Sutter	3/13/2014	4/10/2014
Tehama	2/18/2014	
Tulare	3/10/2014	
Tuolumne	2/28/2014	3/28/2014
Coastal Region		
County	Previous Meetings	Upcoming Meetings
Mendocino	2/26/2014	
Monterey		
San Mateo		3/18/2014
Santa Clara	2/27/2014	
Southern Region		
County	Previous Meetings	Upcoming Meetings
San Luis Obispo	2/28/2014	3/19/2014
Santa Barbara	3/12/2014	4/9/2014
Orange		4/1/2014



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County Updates

Santa Barbara County (as of 3/10/14):

- DWR is attempting to perform contingency planning for calendar year 2015 health and safety requirements in the event we do not receive additional rainfall. To that end, they are requesting that all 29 contractors provide health and safety requirements for 2015 also. If they determine there is a significant need for water to meet health and safety requirements for 2015, DWR may need to adjust deliveries in 2014 to potentially accommodate the 2015 needs. This is preliminary and only needed for planning purposes at this time.
- Montecito and Santa Barbara are placing a joint bid in hopes to purchase the water being sold by Madera. Just last month the city issued a mandatory water reduction cutting residence water use by 30 percent.
- Montecito Water District is able to meet the 55 GPDC for health and sanitation in the 13/14 Water Year if its customers are able to significantly reduce water usage beginning March through the end of this water year. In order to NOT run out of its available annual water supply in 13/14, the Montecito Water District is the only agency in SO CAL that is a member of the State Water Project that has declared a water shortage emergency and as of March 1, 2014, adopted Ordinance 93 that actually rations water to each customer account for the remainder of the water year.

County Updates (continued)

Santa Barbara County-cont'd (as of 3/10/14):

- The current 30% rationing ordinance is the only way the District is expecting to satisfy health and sanitation needs for the remainder of the water year. Ordinance 93 also assesses significant penalties for overuse of water by customers. Meeting health and safety needs this water year is a concern if conservation goals are not met, but the more serious problem is available water supply for next water year, 2014/15. Unless we receive more State Water now, there will be no carryover water nor will all District water supplies combined be able to meet the health and safety needs of the community. We understand there is the immediate need but there is also planning and management for next water year that is the critical year.
- The South Coast agencies in the City of Santa Barbara are relying on SWP carryover water to help stabilize Lake Cachuma water levels until an Emergency Pump Project can be constructed. Lake Cachuma is approximately 39% full, and water levels are projected to drop below the intake structure by September (assuming carryover water had been delivered to the lake). Without SWP carryover water, the Cachuma Lake levels may decline sooner than the Emergency Pump Project can be installed, which would cut off the primary source of supply to South Coast agencies. The City is starting to pump water from four wells. The two groundwater basins will supplement the water supply. At the city corporation yard, the newest well is nearly complete. It will cost around \$2 million just to get one well up and running. There is also a well at Plaza De Vera Cruz on East Cota Street and another well is in the City Hall parking lot. Each well funnels to the Ortega Water Treatment Plant, which then provides water to mostly the downtown area.

County Updates (continued)

Santa Barbara County-cont'd (as of 3/10/14):

- It was anticipated the City of Solvang would be able to supply the tourist demand from the city's interconnects with ID-1. However, if cutbacks are made due to Chromium 6 or exchange water not being available, then this 449 AF need will not be able to be met with the ID-1 connections. CCWA note: Per Santa Ynez ID#1 assumes the City of Solvang can utilize Santa Ynez ID#1 supplies to help meet its demand.
- Depending on how much carryover Goleta Water District (GWD) loses and when, the projected timelines for mandatory reductions would be significantly accelerated. The District would be forced to declare a stage II emergency (25% mandatory reduction) in the April-May timeframe. The loss of carryover would further accelerate the need for a stage III emergency (35% mandatory reduction) by about 6 months. Goleta Water District's Urban Water Management Plan calls for a two-year planning horizon with regard to future water availability. Accordingly, 2 years of projections are being provided for anticipated available supply should drought conditions persist. Approximately 90% of GWD's Ag acreage is permanent crops (citrus and avocados). A loss of water supply to this community would result in significant economic loss to the region, and to California well beyond the immediately drought.
- La Cumbre Mutual Water Company is an area that receives only State Water. Ground water can't be delivered, so it's imperative that some carryover water is received.

County Updates (continued)

San Joaquin County (as of 3/11/14):

- The next DTF meeting will be held March 19, 2014 and a recommendation of action for the Board of Supervisors will be developed.
- Most cities/agencies are maintaining a minimum 20% voluntary conservation measure and enforcement of municipal codes for water waste.
- OES continues to maintain a centralized web site and social media presence (<http://www.sjgov.org/oes/2014%20drought.htm>) for Operational Area (OA) participating jurisdictions.
- San Joaquin County Public Works was issued a purchase order for E-PUR to start organizing wells for enhanced drought monitoring. Planning continues for drought outreach.
- Local government agencies were advised of the state water conservation training for government facilities on Wednesday, March 12, 2014.

County Updates (continued)

Mariposa County (as of 3/7/14):

- Prop 84 Emergency grant funding will be used to drill up to two new hard rock wells and improve their existing primary well. Anticipated to start drilling as soon as next week. CDPH Prop 84 Emergency Grant Funding Agreement is being processed for Issuance.

Sonoma County (as of 3/11/14):

- Briefing local Emergency Management personnel this week on drought conditions with SCWA at the Emergency Coordinator's Forum.

Stanislaus County (as of 3/6/14):

- Next Drought Task Force meeting is scheduled on March 19th.

Plumas County (as of 3/17/14):

- Environmental Health completed formal survey of public drinking water systems serving local communities. No immediate shortages in water supplies are anticipated. (Two) systems indicated some concern for possible diminished supplies as summer progresses. Env Health will continue to monitor for changes/updates.
- Environmental Health receiving inquiries from agriculture producers to install groundwater wells in response to diminished surface water supplies. No new applications submitted to date.
- Sierra County reps plan to attend Plumas County Drought Preparedness Task Force meeting on March 17 to coordinate issues across county boundaries.



County Updates (continued)

Placer County (as of 3/11/14):

- Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) passed a resolution at their March 6th board meeting, making available 5,000 acre feet of water to be purchased by customers in Zone 5 to be used for livestock, permanent crops and annual crops that use drip system. This is a significant change as Zone 5 was slotted to receive no water from PCWA as a result of the drought.
- Placer County has a drought task force meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 12, 2014, at 3:00 p.m.

Kings County (as of 3/11/14):

- The Lemoore Union Elementary School District is aiming to cut water use by 20 percent over the next few months. The district will no longer water during the daytime and is planning to reduce their weekly water schedule from 3 days a week to 1 or 2 days. They will also hold off on watering areas that don't get a lot of use from the students.

Tuolumne County (as of 3/11/14):

- Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors renewed their resolution declaring the continuation of the Local State of Emergency on March 4, 2014.

Yolo County (as of 3/11/14):

- Yolo County Ag Commissioner is projecting a \$60,000 to \$100,000 revenue shortfall to the budget due to geographical fallowed field issues.

County Updates (continued)

Fresno County (as of 3/11/14):

- Due to the drought, Fresno County is expecting unemployment levels to increase to approximately 40% , similar to the impacts in previous water-short years, such as 2009.
- Fresno County Agriculture Commissioner is working with the County Farm Bureau to attempt to accurately quantify the potential impacts that the drought will have on the agricultural economy in our County. It is estimated that 500,000 or more acres of productive farmland may be fallowed this year as a result of the drought. The value of lost crop production is estimated to be \$1.7 billion. The value of lost economic activity tied to reduced crop production is estimated to reach \$5 billion.
- Significantly reduced plantings of iceberg lettuce and broccoli have already occurred. Later in the year we will see reduced production of bell peppers, melons, processing tomatoes and other annual crops. Reduced plantings of these crops will have a major impact on available jobs.

Humboldt County (as of 3/11/14):

- Recent rains filled Ruth Lake Reservoir which serves 2/3rds of the residents in the county. However, there are some concerns about residents' wells in the southern and northeastern part of the county.

County Updates (continued)

Siskiyou County (as of 3/17/14):

- On 03/11/14, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors ratified the local emergency declaration. The Board requested some additional information be added to the declaration.
- Siskiyou County has received a fair amount of precipitation over the past two weeks. The precipitation amounts have not made a significant improvement on our overall water deficit. The storms that passed through the area resulted in high elevation snow levels, thus providing little to no snow accumulation in the counties higher elevations. Snow pack is extremely vital to the county water supply.
- On 03/06/14, Inland Region Administrator Eric Lamoureux attended a meeting with the Siskiyou County Office of Emergency Services to discuss the counties current and future water concerns. Also in attendance were representatives from local agriculture, the Shasta Valley and Montague water districts and boards, Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture, Sheriff's Department, Public Health and Environmental Health. A second meeting was held in the afternoon with representatives from the Scott Valley area. It was reported during the meeting that Dwinnel Reservoir is currently at approximately 7800 acre feet. The maximum acre feet Dwinnel holds is approximately 44,000 acre feet. The average for this time of year is 33,000 acre feet. A best-case scenario, which would require consistent heavy precipitation over the next month, would result in an estimated capacity of 11,000 acre feet. Given that scenario, the City of Montague would run out of domestic water sometime in August. Without precipitation over the next month, it is estimated that the City of Montague will run out of domestic water around the beginning of July.
- Based off the status of current water levels, coupled with environmental regulations, no water will be released from Dwinnel for agriculture this year, affecting all of the agricultural community it services. There are some alternative measures that both the Montague and Shasta Valley water districts are considering, but may require support from state resources.

County Updates (continued)

Siskiyou County-cont'd (as of 3/10/14):

- In the Scott Valley area, the valley water supply is dependent on high elevation snow accumulation. The run off from the mountains is what supports domestic and agricultural water for the different areas in the valley. This year, there is little to no measureable snow in the mountains surrounding the valley, thus causing a significant reduction of water flow from the tributaries supporting the valley's water supplies. Current areas of concern are the City of Etna and the town of Callahan. These communities will be monitored as the season progresses.
- Another concern in Scott Valley is number of salmon that are current in the Scott River water tributary. Due to the lack of water in the tributaries feeding the Scott River, the salmon are not able to make it into the upper portions of the tributaries to their normal spawning locations. Without being able to access the tributaries, the salmon are staying in the Scott River and creating beds. It is anticipated that without significant precipitation, the Scott River water level will drop to the point that the salmon may become landlocked before that they make their return run back down the river. This would potentially result in the death of several thousand salmon. Scott Valley ranchers and water boards are working with state agencies to develop contingency plans for the survival of the fish.
- The Siskiyou County Drought Task Force will continue to collect critical drought information and outreach to the community.

County Updates (continued)

Kern County (as of 3/12/14):

- Prior to the recent rains and strict conservation measures the Water System relied on hauled water to supplement their existing sources. Prop 84 Emergency Funds used to drill up to two test wells, conduct test pumping, and obtain water quality samples. If the pump test and water quality analysis results are acceptable, one of the test wells will be converted into a production well and connected to the existing distribution system. They have identified test well locations and are working on the test well Plans and Specifications.
- As a result of the recent rains the springs are now producing enough water system has not needed to haul water since January 2014. The project solution is still being evaluated. Recent snow should keep the springs producing for at least a few more months.
- Kern County Board of Supervisors extending their continuation of the Local Emergency due to drought and proposed resolution calling for voluntary water conservation on March 11, 2014.

Glenn County (as of 3/11/14):

- Glenn County Board of Supervisors reaffirmed their local disaster declaration on March 4, 2014.

Merced County (as of 2/28/14):

- Merced County has established a Drought Task Force and their first meeting will be on 3/19/14.

County Updates (continued)

Madera County (as of 3/11/14):

- On March 7, local Farm Services Agency (FSA) attended the Drought Disaster Workgroup, a coalition of Ag Commissioners from the Coast, Sacramento Valley and San Joaquin Valley areas, and FSA representatives. This group will meet periodically to share area information and to be informed of FSA assistance programs and requirements. On March 4, attended the State Board of Food and Agriculture meeting in Merced. The focus was on the drought conditions, with panel discussions with input from local agencies, tribes, water agencies, irrigation districts, farm worker representatives, industry, the State drought task force, and public comments.
- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Drinking Water Program (DWP) announced on March 7, 2014 that the West Goshen water system, previously identified as being in immediate danger of acute drinking water shortages, is no longer at risk due to emergency funding to build an interconnection with a larger drinking water system and replace a failing well pump. As the ongoing extreme drought conditions continue in the state, CDPH continues to assist drinking water systems at risk of running out of water.

County Updates (continued)

Contra Costa County (as of 3/17/14):

- Eastbay MUD: No major changes. As of March 13, their reservoirs are at 63% capacity, 80% of average. Precipitation is 53% of average. They need at least four good storms to not have a water shortage emergency declared this April. They are still asking for a 10% voluntary cutback from customers and have started making arrangements to access our Sacramento River dry-year supply via the Bureau of Reclamation and a possible water transfer with Placer County Water Agency.
- Contra Costa Water District: Their Board will likely adopt a “voluntary 15% drought reduction program” the week of 3/17/14. So unless there is further direction at the State level they don’t see changing from “voluntary” to “mandatory” restrictions. CCWD customers will have an adequate supply for 2014 but will need to be efficient in their water use. Their newly expanded Los Vaqueros Reservoir will provide additional local supply source to make-up for the reduction in our Reclamation water supply contract this year.

San Diego County (as of 3/17/14):

- San Diego continues to monitor the drought situation, there has been no change. One inquiry was received from a farmer with a 300 acre parcel in San Diego inquiring if there was any assistance available for well drilling. His well used to produce 1/2 acre feet per say and is now only producing 20 gpm. The OA referred him to the County Department of Environment Health for the well-drilling permit process and additional information.

Weather Synopsis by Region

Information as of 3/17/14

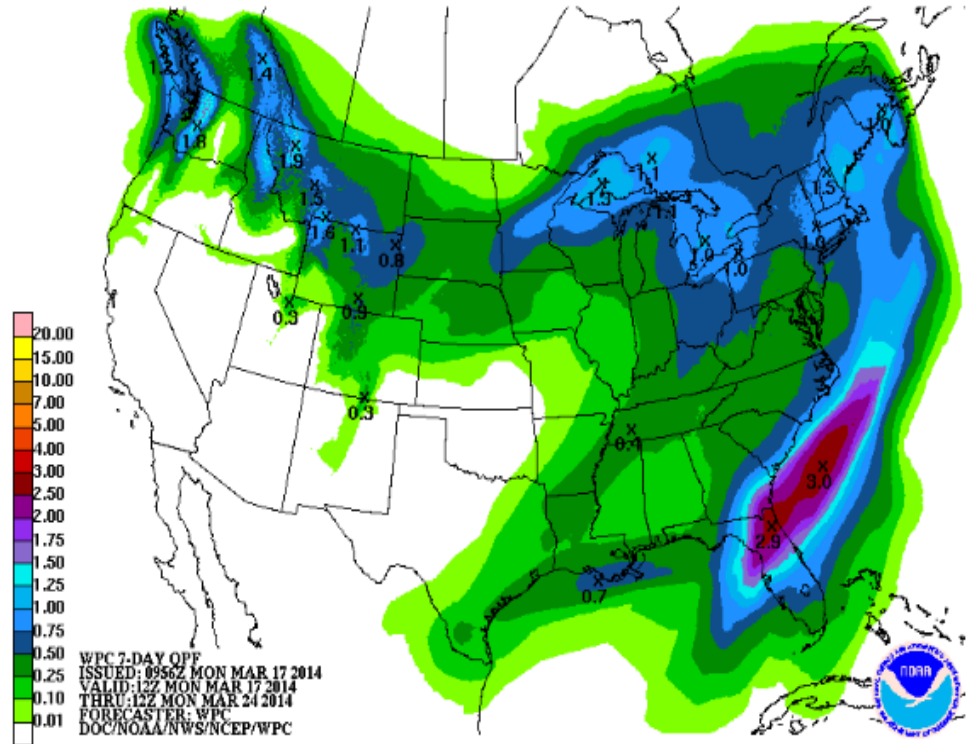
Northern & Central California

Eureka Weather:

Isolated showers will linger this morning in the wake of a cold front. High pressure will build across Northwestern California with dry weather and moderating temperatures through the week.

San Francisco Weather:

A dry cold front will pass over Northern California this morning with some gusty winds and cooler temperatures for Monday afternoon. High pressure this week will bring more dry weather with temperatures generally in the mid-60s and 70s this week.



<http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/day1-7.shtml>



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Weather Synopsis by Region

Information as of 3/17/14

California Precipitation Graphic

72 hour (3/13/14-3/16/14)

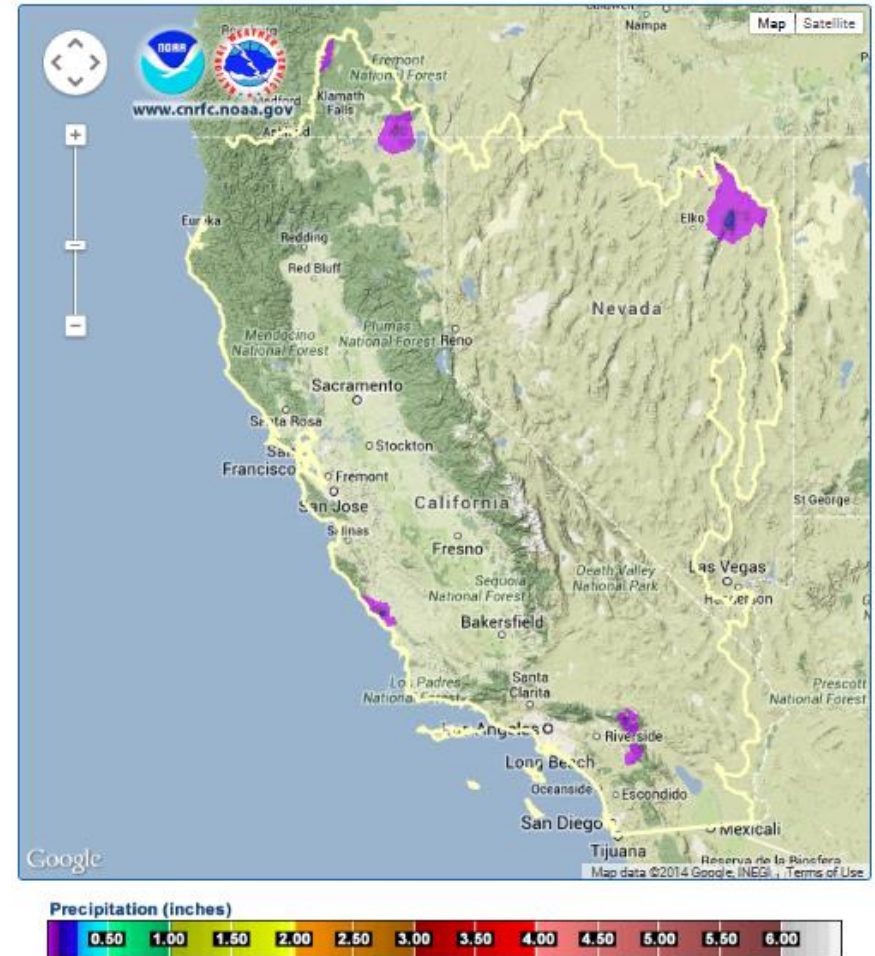
Central California and Southern San Joaquin Valley

Sacramento Weather:

A fast moving weather system will brush across far-Northern California this morning, then clearing skies and breezy north winds will develop during the afternoon. Gusty north winds will continue into Tuesday, otherwise dry weather is expected through the week.

Hanford Weather:

On Monday, breezy to windy conditions are possible in the Kern County Mountains and Desert as well as the west side of the San Joaquin Valley due to a dry low pressure system.



<http://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/google.php>



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Weather Synopsis by Region

Information as of 3/17/14

Southern California

Los Angeles Weather:

Much cooler weather is expected today as a trough of low pressure passes to the north and onshore flow returns. Gusty winds will affect portions of the Los Angeles area this afternoon through Tuesday morning. It will be dry with above normal daytime temperatures through mid-week. Then a cooling trend is expected Thursday into the weekend with plenty of night through morning low clouds and fog west of the mountains.

San Diego, Western Riverside, and Southwestern San Bernardino Weather:

A trough of low pressure moving southeastward through the Great Basin will bring stronger onshore flow to Southern California today. This will bring cooling with gusty west winds in the mountains and deserts for this afternoon and evening. For Tuesday through Thursday, an onshore flow will maintain with temperatures slightly above average and night and morning coastal low clouds extending into the valleys. Slightly cooler conditions are expected for Friday through next weekend with a weak trough of low pressure near the California coast.

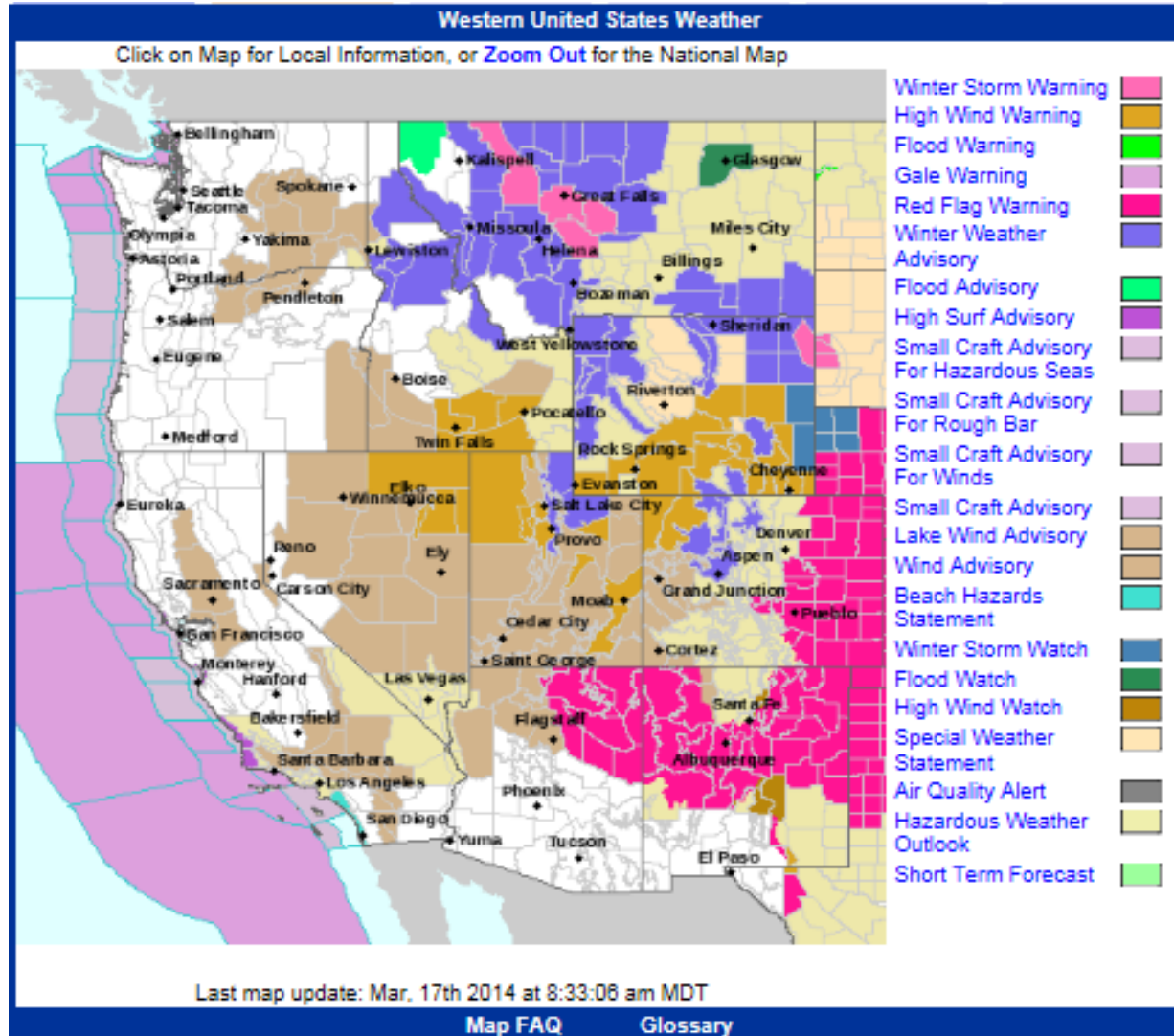
Southeast California Weather:

A fast moving cold front sweeping across the southern Great Basin and Mojave Desert this afternoon and tonight will bring gusty winds to much Southeastern California.



State Weather Map

Information as of 3/17/14



<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/>



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National 7-day Significant Fire Potential Outlook



Legend

Fuel Dryness

- Moist - Little or no risk for large fires.
- Dry - Low risk of large fires in the absence of a "High Risk" event.
- Very dry - Low/Moderate risk of large fires in the absence of a "High Risk" event.
- Data Unavailable.

High Risk Events

- Wind
- Hot and Dry
- Lightning

Missing Stations

- Yurok
- Whitmore Calif

California - North Area 7 Day Significant Fire Potential

Predictive Service Area	Thu Mar 13	Fri Mar 14	Sat Mar 15	Sun Mar 16	Mon Mar 17	Tue Mar 18	Wed Mar 19	Thu Mar 20
NC01 - North Coast								
NC02 - Mid Coast								
NC03A - Bay Area-Marine								
NC03B - Diablo/Santa Cruz Mtns								
NC04 - Northwestern Mtns								
NC05 - Sacramento Valley								
NC06 - Northeast CA								
NC07 - Northern Sierra								
NC08 - East Side								

Weather

Nrn CA will be under the influence of strong high pressure this weekend, with possibly the warmest weather so far this year. Light offshore winds will also bring humidity down to the 10-20% range, and poor RH recovery can be expected at mid and upper slopes.

A weak cold front on Monday will cool things slightly, and may produce a few sprinkles along the Oregon border. Otherwise next weeks weather will be changeable, with a brief return to dry offshore flow late Monday into Tuesday, before a weakening coastal low brings more clouds and perhaps a few showers by midweek.

Fuels/Fire Potential

Dead and dormant fuels are still in the **Moist** category, but are drying quickly. The dry and warm weather this weekend will push PSAs with plenty of fine fuels at lower elevations into the **"Dry"** category. Initial Attack could increase in these areas this weekend, but new grass growth will limit the potential for large fires. Also, greenup is starting for a few of the low elevation brush species.

For prescribed burning, see the daily Smoke dispersion product at: http://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/predictive/weather/daily_smoke/Smoke.html

Despite the recent 5-week wetter pattern, much of northern CA remains in **Severe to Extreme** longer-term drought. Latest map: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA>

Resources

North OPS: Preparedness Level 1
National: Preparedness Level 1
MACS Mode 2

<http://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/predictive/weather/7Day.pdf>

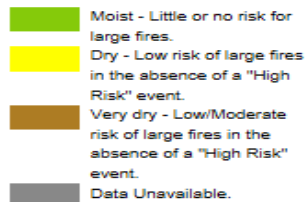


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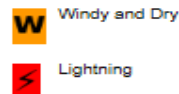


Legend

Fuel Dryness



High Risk Events



Missing Stations

- Devore

California - South Area 7 Day Significant Fire Potential

Issued: Sunday, Mar 16, 2014

Parameters:

Predictive Service Area	Sat Mar 15	Sun Mar 16	Mon Mar 17	Tue Mar 18	Wed Mar 19	Thu Mar 20	Fri Mar 21	Sat Mar 22
SC01 - Eastern Sierra								
SC02 - Central Sierra								
SC03 - Southern Sierra								
SC04 - Sierra Foothills								
SC05 - Central Valley								
SC06 - Central Coast Interior								
SC07 - Central Coast								
SC08 - South Coast								
SC09 - Western Mountains								
SC10 - Eastern Mountains								
SC11 - Southern Mountains								
SC12 - Lower Deserts								
SC13 - Eastern Deserts								
SC14 - Central Mojave								
SC15 - Upper Deserts								
SC16 - Northern Deserts								

Weather

Hot and very dry today

Temperatures will warm a few more degrees with near record heat once again today as a strong ridge of high pressure remains over California. Maximum temperatures will be in the mid 60s to mid 70s in the mountains and mid 80s to low 90s in the valleys. Minimum humidity will be in the single digits and teens across the region today. The ridge will weaken rapidly as a trough moves inland across the Pacific Northwest bringing around 10 degrees of cooling Monday. Minimum humidity will become high along the coast, but inland locations will only see a minor increase into the teens. There will be strong westerly winds of 20 to 30 mph with gusts to 50 mph across the mountain ridges and desert passes Monday. Temperatures will cool a few more degrees with humidity remaining in the teens for the most part on Tuesday as another trough passes us to the east. A weak ridge of high pressure will build into California from the Pacific Ocean bringing a little warmer temperatures and areas of single digit humidity Wednesday. There will be local northeast to east winds of 10 to 20 mph with gusts to 35 mph across the Tehachapi Mountains and Grapevine Tuesday morning through Wednesday morning. A weak trough will move over the West Coast bringing a slow cooling trend and a slow increase in humidity along with light onshore flow Thursday through Saturday. Temperatures will become near normal by Saturday.

Fuels/Fire Potential

Near record heat along with humidity in the single digits and teens will maintain an elevated risk for large fire across most of the region today. Even though temperatures will cool significantly, the potential for large fire will remain elevated over parts of the area Monday through Wednesday due to gusty winds and continued very low humidity. Dead fuels will continue to dry out rapidly through Wednesday due to the very dry conditions. Expect moderate initial attack activity through Wednesday and then light IA activity Thursday through Saturday as humidity starts to increase and winds become light.

Resources

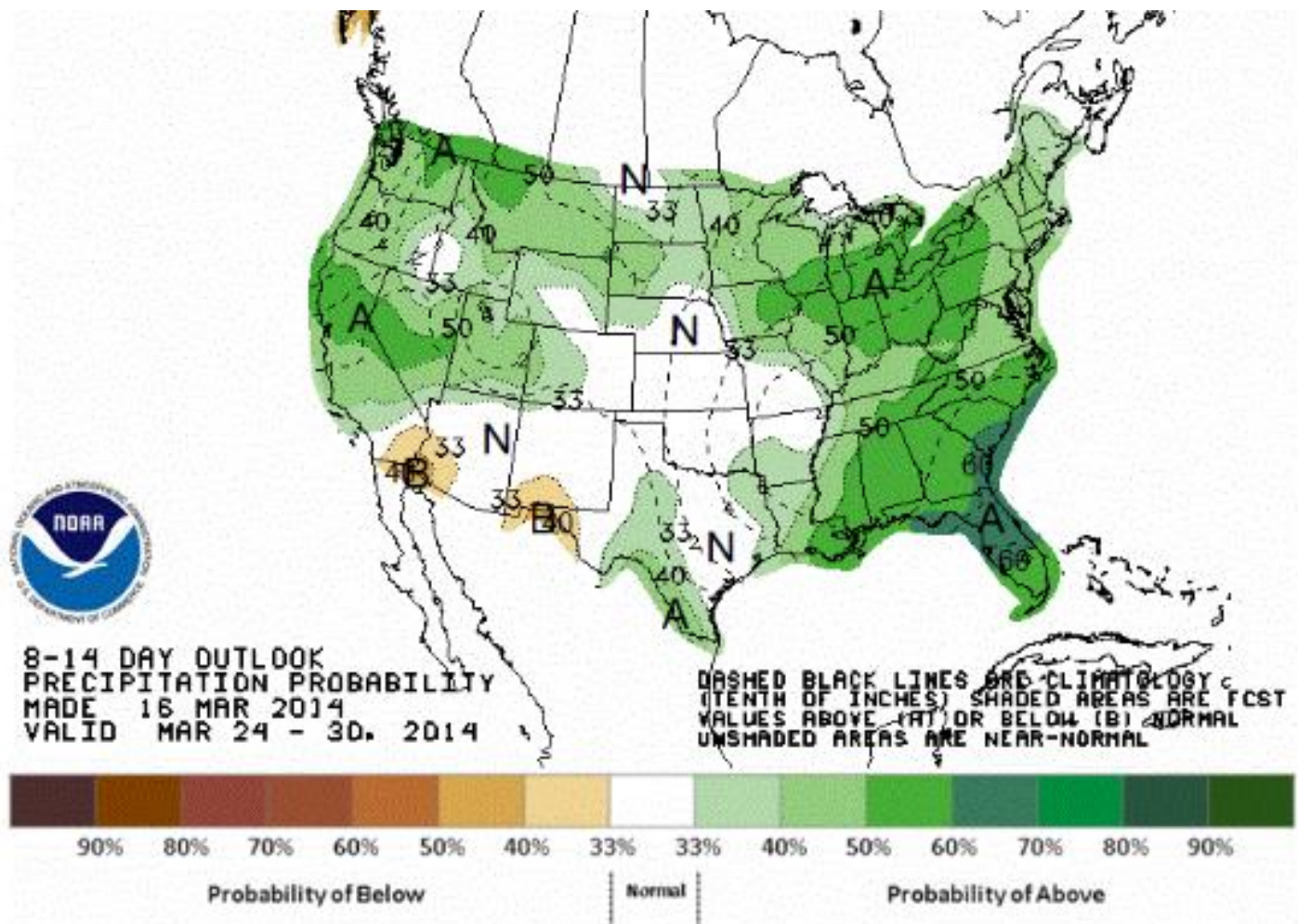
CWCG Preparedness Level 2, MACS Mode 2

<http://psgeodata.fs.fed.us/7day/action/forecast/8>



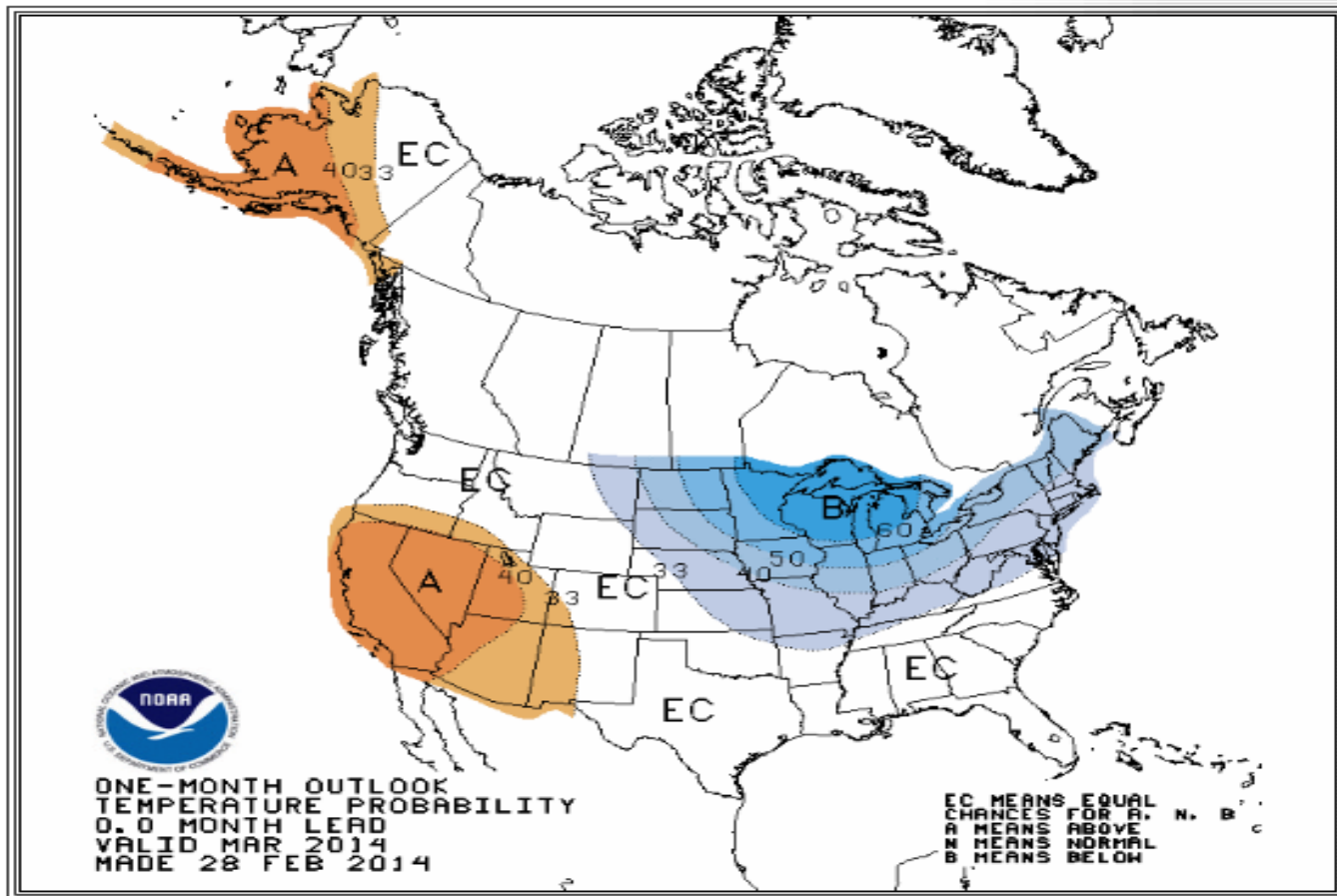
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8-14 Day Precipitation Probability Outlook for March 24 – March 30, 2014



<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/814day/>

February-March Precipitation Probability Outlook



There is a greater chance for below normal precipitation in Southern California for the month of March.

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/30day/>



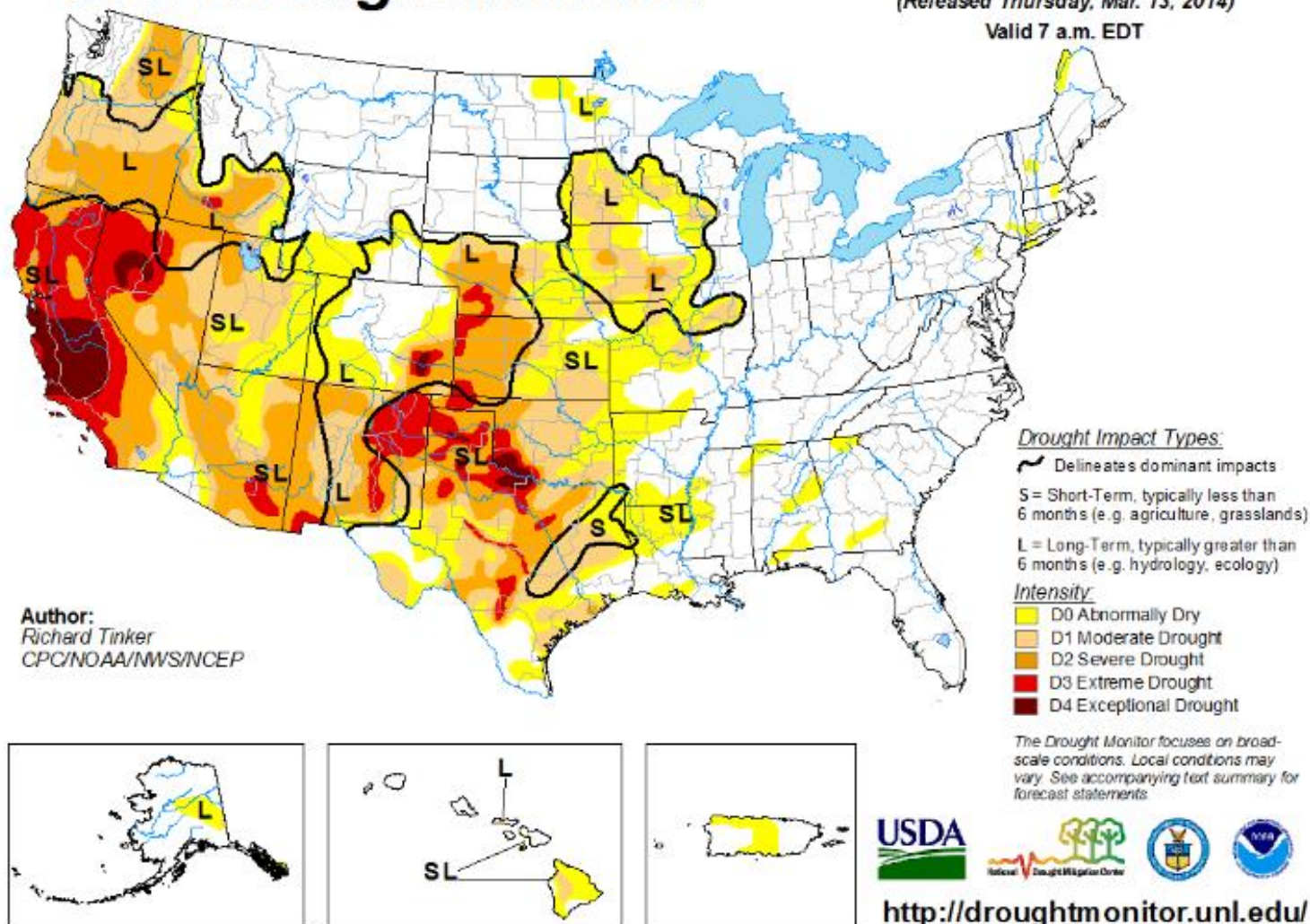
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U.S. Drought Monitor

March 11, 2014

(Released Thursday, Mar. 13, 2014)

Valid 7 a.m. EDT



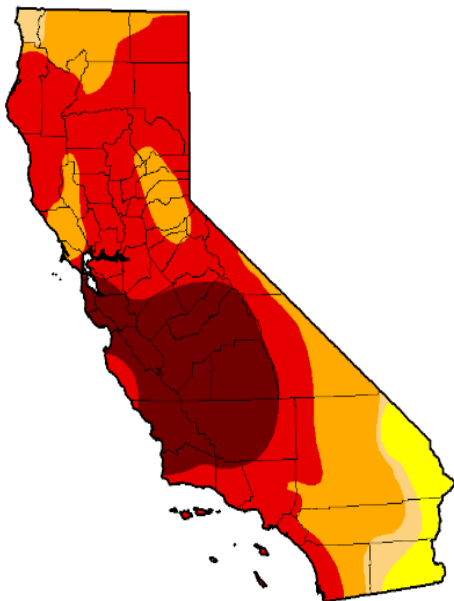
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



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Weather Summary - Current Drought Conditions in California

U.S. Drought Monitor California



March 11, 2014
(Released Thursday March 13, 2014)
Valid 7 a.m. Eastern

Statistics type: ☒ Traditional (D0-D4, D1-D4, etc.) ☐ Categorical (D0, D1, etc.)

Drought Condition (Percent Area):

Week	Date	Nothing	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	3/11/2014	0.01	99.99	94.56	90.81	65.89	22.37
Last Week	3/4/2014	0.00	100.00	94.56	90.82	65.89	22.37
3 Months Ago	12/10/2013	2.61	97.39	94.15	82.53	27.59	0.00
Start of Calendar Year	12/31/2013	2.61	97.39	94.25	87.53	27.59	0.00
Start of Water Year	10/1/2013	2.63	97.37	95.95	84.12	11.36	0.00
One Year Ago	3/12/2013	15.63	84.37	46.23	24.19	0.00	0.00

[View More Statistics](#)

Intensity:

D0 - Abnormally Dry
 D1 - Moderate Drought
 D2 - Severe Drought

D3 - Extreme Drought
 D4 - Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying [text summary](#) for forecast statements.

Author(s):

Richard Tinker, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

The D4 (Exceptional Drought) is the worst drought category on the Drought Monitor and **the first time it's been used in California since this monitoring system started in 2000.** The degradation was made due to historically low rainfall amounts so far this winter, long-term precipitation deficits stretching several years, and a growing number of increasingly significant drought impacts. **In addition, 66% of California is now covered by D3/D4 conditions.**

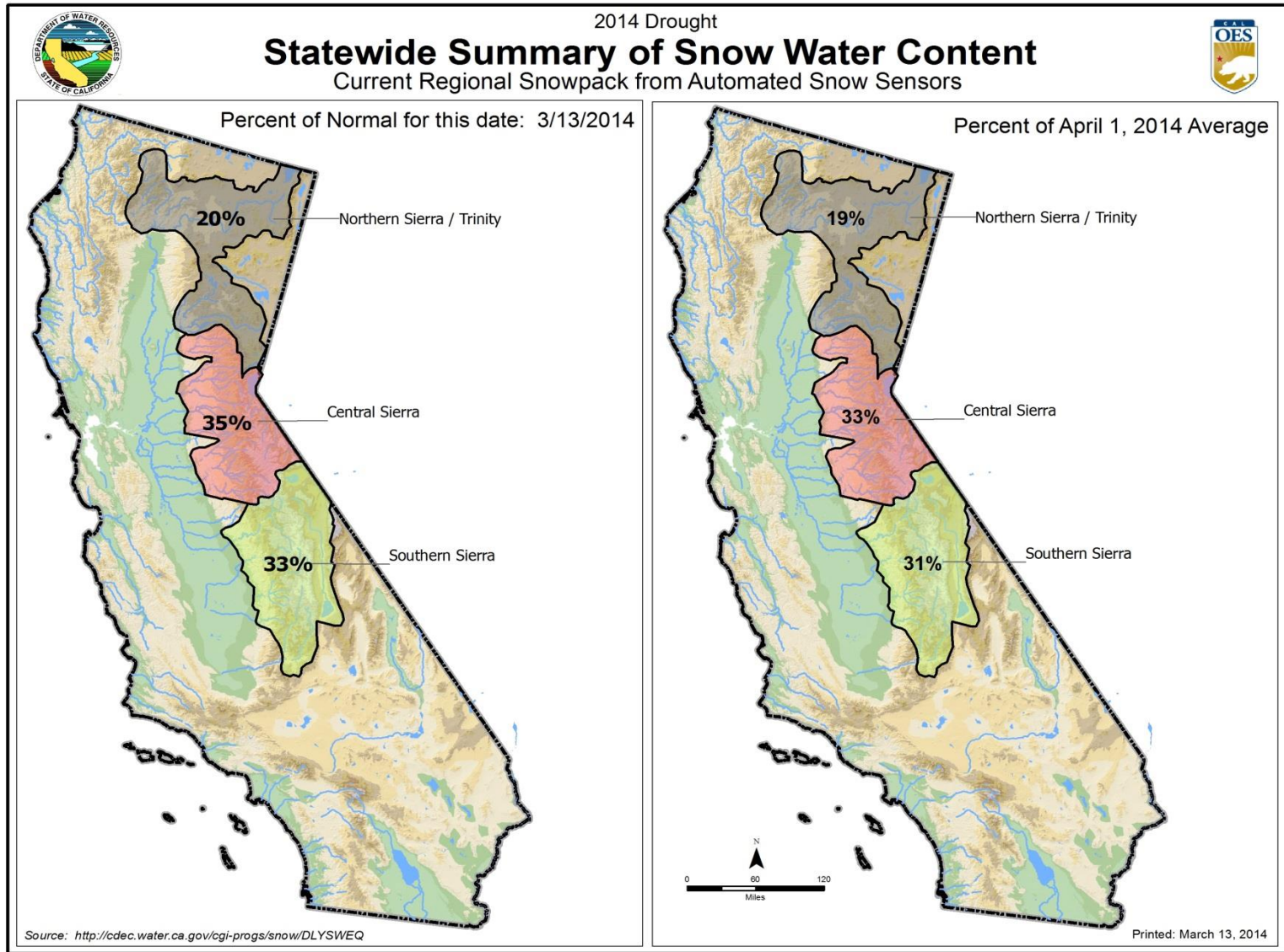
Note: Updated Weekly

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA>

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sto/droughtca.php>



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Reservoir Levels

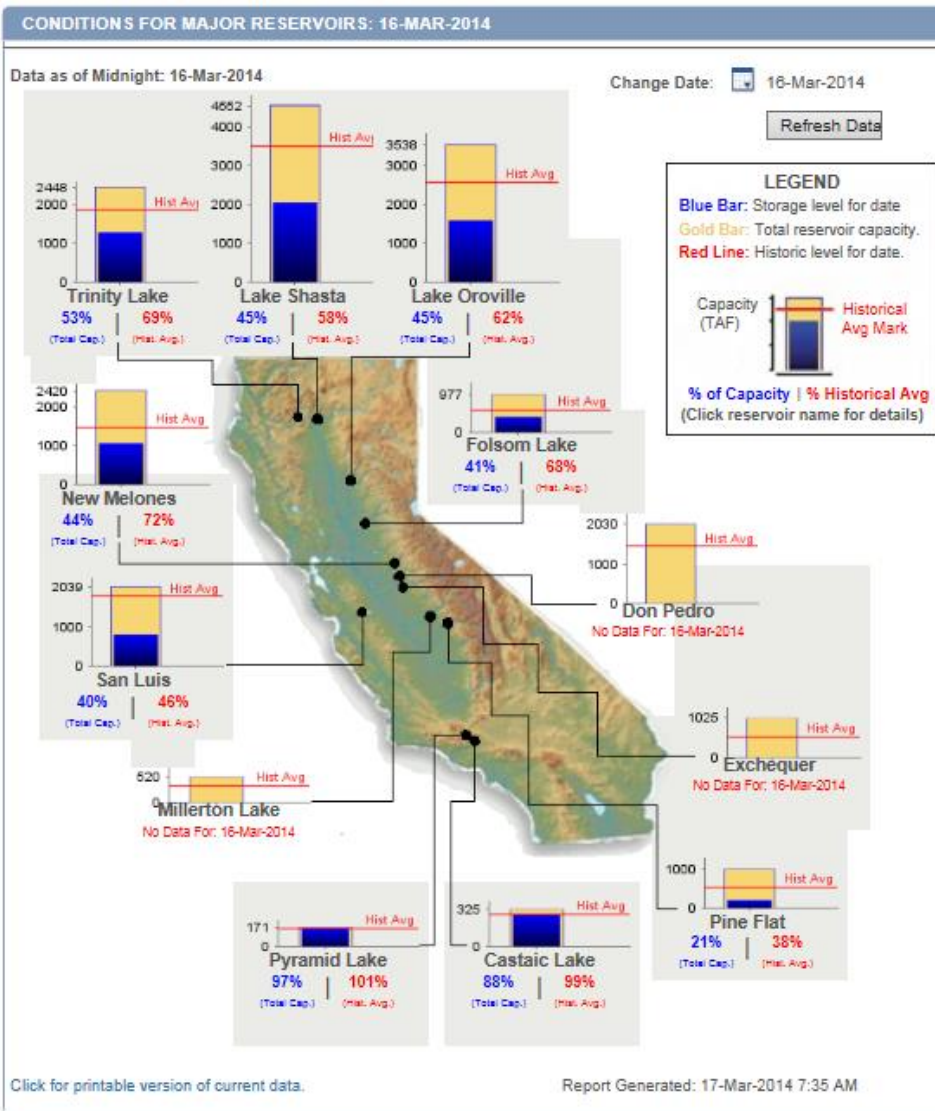
Many parts of California -- including Sacramento and Los Angeles -- marked calendar year 2013 as the driest on record. These extremely dry conditions follow two previous dry years statewide.

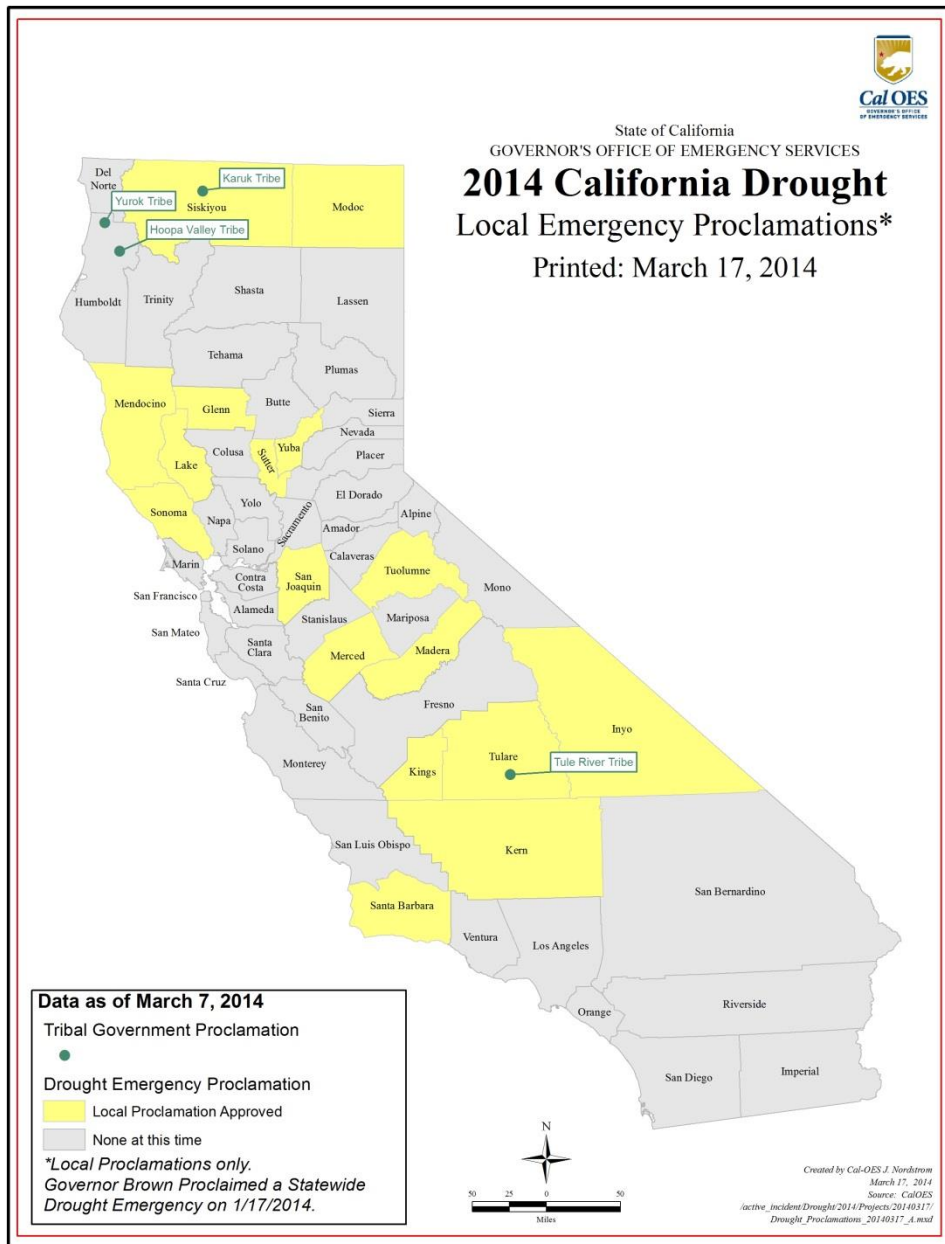
Storage in the reservoirs that typically help California cope with dry weather are well below average for this time of year.

River levels are low around the state. Along the North Coast, the Russian River, and the upper Sacramento River, levels are at their lowest points ever for this time of year.

Some water districts with a diversified portfolio of water sources and ample storage -- such as the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which serves 19 million people -- are prepared to weather a third dry winter.

Farmers who depend heavily on the State's two biggest water projects, the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, face minimal and uncertain supplies.





Proclamations

State

1/17/14 Governor Edmund G. Brown proclaimed a State of Emergency

Counties

Glenn (1/22/14)
Inyo (1/29/14)
Kern (1/14/14)
Kings (1/14/14)
Lake (1/17/14, ratified 3/4/14)
Madera (1/17/14)
Mendocino (1/7/14)
Merced (2/25/14)
Modoc (3/4/14)
San Joaquin (2/25/14)
Santa Barbara (1/17/14)
Siskiyou (3/11/2014)
Sonoma (2/25/14)
Sutter (2/11/14)
Tulare (2/4/14)
Tuolumne (2/4/14)
Yuba (2/18/14)

Tribal

Hoopa Valley Reservation (1/20/14)
Yurok Reservation (1/29/14)
Tule River Indian Tribe (1/30/14)
Karuk Tribe (2/8/14)

Federal

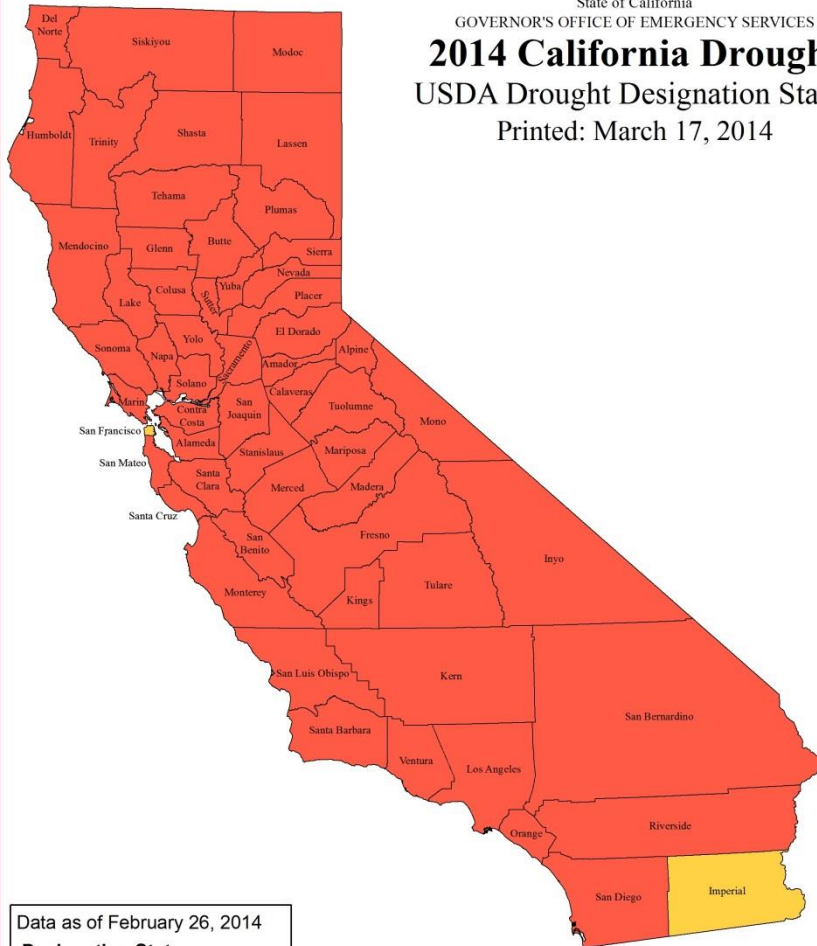
None



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State of California
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
2014 California Drought
USDA Drought Designation Status
Printed: March 17, 2014



Data as of February 26, 2014

Designation Status

- Primary
- Contiguous
- None

Created by Cal-OES J. Nordstrom

March 17, 2014

Source: USDA, CalOES

./active_incidentDrought2014/Projects/201400317/

USDA_DroughtDisasterDesignations_20140317.mxd

USDA Disaster Designation

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a secretarial disaster designation identifying 56 of 58 counties in California as primary natural disaster areas due to drought and 2 contiguous counties. This means that every county in California is now eligible to receive assistance.



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USDA Disaster Designation – Individual Assistance

Information as of 3/7/14

